



Alabama Association of Institutional Research

Spring Newsletter 2016

Message from the President

Hello from West Alabama! I hope everyone is enjoying a gorgeous day like the one we are having in Livingston. I am so thankful for a reprieve from the nasty weather we've had here; thunderstorms, tornado warnings, flash flood warnings, etc., etc., etc. Maybe, finally, spring is in the air. And, with spring comes ALAIR (you should read that with all the excitement with which I typed it ☺). ALAIR is a great time to catch up with colleagues, make new connections, find a new mentor, and take a breather from the chaos and rat race that often is IR and IE.

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The 2016 ALAIR Conference will be held at Samford University in Birmingham April 14 – 15, 2016. Conference registration is \$125 and includes one year membership in ALAIR and a ticket to the special event. Our theme for the conference is "Academ(ia) Awards: Best Practices/Performances in IR" and I know Toner and his team are going to be rolling out the red carpet for us this year! It's going to be a blast. Oh, and you might learn a few things, too.

For all of you starlets and leading men, there is an opportunity for you to showcase your talents by presenting at this year's conference. The Call for Participation/Papers form is attached, and we'd love to have you participate. Don't keep all that talent and knowledge to yourself. What fun is that? Get those dazzling proposals to Lesley Shotts (lesley.shotts@drakestate.edu) by March 23, 2016. Maybe you'll win an Academ(ia) Award or two.

I want to thank the Executive Committee for all of their hard work and dedication to ALAIR. I would also like to thank Toner and his team for taking on the conference. It is not an easy job, and one that requires lots of planning and time. If you have an opportunity, please let the EC and Toner know how much you appreciate their work.

I look forward to seeing all of you. I'll leave you with something I read today that I thought was most fitting for my family's journey, and may be helpful to some of you:

"Dance. Smile. Giggle. Marvel. TRUST. HOPE. LOVE. WISH. BELIEVE. Most of all, enjoy every moment of the journey, and appreciate where you are at this moment instead of always focusing on how far you have to go." — Mandy Hale, *The Single Woman: Life, Love, and a Dash of Sass*

As my husband and I are celebrating the end of one leg of his battle against cancer today. I read it and thought how appropriate! At this moment, we appreciate where we are. At this moment, we are able to laugh and smile and hope and believe. At this moment, we are enjoying this part of the journey. I want to enjoy this moment and not focus on how far we have to go, and that is what I want for all of you as well. Enjoy this moment, this day. Focus on the now. Find time to dance and smile and giggle and marvel. See you in April!

Angel Jowers

ALAIR President 2015-2016

“Samford University is Alabama’s top-ranked private university with nationally ranked academic programs rooted in the university’s Christian mission. Located in suburban Birmingham, Samford was founded in 1841. With an enrollment of more than 5,200, students representing 46 states and 32 countries. Samford offers 30 undergraduate and graduate degree programs through 10 academic units: arts, arts and sciences, business, divinity, education, health professions, law, nursing, pharmacy and public health.”



2016 ALAIR Conference Update

The 2016 ALAIR Conference will be held at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. The conference will begin Thursday, April 14, 2016 with two pre-conference workshops followed by concurrent sessions. Our special event Thursday night, will be attendance at a Birmingham Barons game. Our conference will conclude on Friday, April 15 with concurrent sessions followed by the business luncheon.

Accommodations for conference attendees are available at the Marriott Courtyard Birmingham Homewood, located at 500 Shades Creek Parkway, Homewood, AL 35209-4418. The rate is \$80 per night. When making your reservation, please identify yourself as part of the Samford ALAIR Conference group to receive the group rate. You can call 1-205-879-0400 or use the link on page 3 of the newsletter.



Join us Thursday, April 14, 2015 at Regions Field!

During this year's conference, our special event will be held at Regions Field.

Home to the Birmingham Barons, the state-of-the-art 8,500 seat facility in the heart of downtown features a variety of unique seating areas, creating an intimate atmosphere and offering unique views of the downtown skyline, UAB, Children's Hospital, Vulcan and Red Mountain

Regions Field is located at 1401 1st Ave South in Birmingham, Alabama 35233



**Come watch the
Birmingham Barons
take on the Tennessee
Smokies!**



Link for Hotel Reservations for ALAIR Conference

The link to make reservations for the conference at the Marriott Courtyard Birmingham Homewood was is below. Please copy and paste the link if you would like to make your reservation online instead of by phone.

http://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkData=Samford%20ALAIR%20Conference%5Ebhmhw%60SBBSBBA%7CSBBSBBB%6080.00%60USD%60false%604%604/13/16%604/15/16%603/31/16&app=resvlink&stop_mobi=yes

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION/PAPERS

Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR)

Annual Conference

April 14-15, 2016

Academ(ia) Awards: Best Practices/Performances in IR

On April 14-15, 2016, the Alabama Association for Institutional Research (ALAIR) will hold its annual conference at Samford University.

Your participation in the ALAIR Annual Conference is essential to ensure the success of the conference. **You do not have to be an ALAIR member, or even an institutional researcher to submit a proposal.** Proposals in all areas of institutional research, assessment, policy analysis, planning, and related techniques are encouraged. Your participation can take the form of a paper, presentation, or a tools and techniques session. Proposals do not have to be related directly to the conference theme.

Papers and Presentations are formal sessions that present a scholarly approach or extended discussion of a technique of interest to conference participants. These sessions will be approximately 45 minutes in length (which includes the time for questions/answers). Tools and Techniques sessions are informal presentations of reports, analyses, techniques, software demonstrations, and the like. The presenter may develop a brief (3-5 minutes) presentation, but the value of this type of sessions is the opportunity to discuss the topic one-on-one, or in small groups.

Proposals are due by **March 23, 2016**

ALAIR PRESENTATION/PAPER PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

Proposals should be submitted to Lesley Shotts via one of the following methods:

MAIL – Lesley Shotts, Research and Grants Coordinator, J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College, 3421 Meridian Street, North, Huntsville, AL 35811

E-MAIL – lesley.shotts@drakestate.edu

FAX – 256-551-3151

Proposals should include a brief abstract and the following information:

Title of Presentation: _____

Type of Presentation: _____ Paper _____ Presentation _____ Tools & Techniques

Authors/Presenters Names: _____

Contact Person's Name: _____

Contact E-mail: _____

Contact Mailing Address: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ Contact Fax Number: _____

List special equipment/requirements: _____

ALAIR 2016 Annual Conference Registration Form

April 14-15, 2016 at Samford University

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Conference Registration Fee (Includes ALAIR membership until 2017 annual conference and includes 2016 conference special event)

Please check all that apply.

Amount through April 1: _____ \$125.00

Student/Emeritus through April 1: _____ \$100.00

Amount after April 1: _____ \$140.00

Student/Emeritus after April 1: _____ \$115.00

Guest for Friday Luncheon: _____ \$20.00

Thursday Night Special Event Guest _____ \$30.00

ALAIR Membership only: _____ \$25.00 (for those unable to attend the conference)

I will be attending (mark all that apply):

- Newcomers Workshop: _____ \$25.00 (Thursday morning)
- Academ(ia) Award: Best Curriculum Makeup Workshop: _____ \$25.00 (Thursday morning)
- Business Meeting/Luncheon: _____ (Friday) I will need a vegetarian meal: _____

Send Registration and Payment to ALAIR Treasurer, Tienhan Ma.

Make checks payable to ALAIR.

ATTN: Tienhan Ma

Coordinator of Assessment/Office of Institutional Research & Assessment

Jacksonville State University

700 Pelham Road North

Jacksonville, Alabama, 36265

(256)782-5109

thma@jsu.edu

Should you have any questions about the 2016 ALAIR Conference, please contact Conference Chair Toner Evans, at 205-726-2484 or jevans1@samford.edu.

GUIDELINES FOR ALAIR SAM LOWTHER TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR SAIR

Introduction

The ALAIR travel grant is awarded to a member in order to promote the three major purposes of ALAIR:

- The advancement of institutional research leading to improved understanding, planning, and operation of Alabama institutions of higher education;
- The dissemination of information and interchange of ideas on problems of common interest; and
- The continued professional development of ALAIR members.

Guidelines for Applications:

1. Selection shall be made by the ALAIR Executive Committee based on the recommendation of the Awards Committee, chaired by the Past President, and from among applications received.
2. Recipient must be a current member of ALAIR. Current Executive Committee members are not eligible to receive a travel grant.
3. Applicant must have attended at least one ALAIR annual conference.
4. ALAIR Travel Grant Application must be completed and received by published deadline of April 8, 2016.
5. Amount of grant: \$300.
6. Applicant must provide a brief statement describing financial need for the grant.
7. Applicant must describe the ways in which conference attendance will contribute to professional development, in general, and to the recipient's participation in ALAIR. Payment will be issued by the ALAIR Treasurer to the recipient soon after the attendance and return from SAIR.

ALAIR SAM LOWTHER TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION
for the 2016 SAIR Conference

Charlotte, NC – Oct. 8 - 11, 2016

The grant is \$300.

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please provide a brief statement describing your financial need for the travel grant.

Describe the ways in which this conference will contribute to your professional development, in general, and to your participation in ALAIR.

Return this form by April 8, 2016 to Dr. Jon Acker, ALAIR Past President at jon.acker@ua.edu.

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH NOMINATIONS FOR 2016-17 OFFICERS

Please nominate one or more people for each of the following offices:

VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT:

The Vice President shall: a) plan the program for the annual conference; b) assist the President in other duties as the need arises; and c) assume the duties of the President in the event that person cannot complete his/her term. The Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President at the end of the one-year term as Vice-President.

SECRETARY:

The Secretary shall: a) keep the minutes of the annual business meeting and other meetings of the membership or of the Executive Committee; b) publish and distribute the newsletter of the Association; c) publish and distribute an annual information directory for the Association; d) attend to the correspondence of the Association, including printing and distributing notices about the annual conference; e) print and be responsible for incorporating into a master electronic format any proposed bylaws or amendment(s) initiated in accordance with Section I of Article I, and submit them to the members for consideration at the annual business meeting; and f) perform all said duties inherent in the position of Secretary. The term of office shall be two years, commencing in even numbered years.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: (Two will be elected)

The Nominating Committee shall: a) work with the Immediate Past President; b) prepare and report to the Executive Committee a single candidate for each office position for which an election is to be held. Nominating Committee members are ineligible to be on the slate of officers to be elected at the annual business meeting the year in which they serve on the committee.

Please return this form by March 11, 2016 to Dr. Jon Acker (jon.acker@ua.edu).

ALAIR Executive Board

President

Angel Jowers

Vice-President

Toner Evans

Past President

Jon Acker

Treasurer

Tienhan Ma

Secretary

Lesley Shotts

Member-at-Large

Lindsay Hutcherson

Nominating Committee

Kelly Birchfield

Mimi Johnson

Other Conferences

2016 AIR Forum

May 30—June 3, 2016 - New Orleans, LA

Hyatt Regency New Orleans

601 Loyola Avenue

New Orleans, Louisiana, 70113

2016 SAIR Conference

October 8-11, 2016—Charlotte, NC

The Westin Charlotte

601 South College Street

Charlotte, NC, 28202

Now Accepting Nominations

Nominations are being sought for the following positions:

- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Nominating Committee

If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone please send an email with your nomination to Jon Acker at jon.acker@ua.edu. The election will be held at the 2016 ALAIR Conference.



ALAIR

Alabama Association for Institutional Research